

GENERAL

BELOV GIVES VIEW ON LAW OF SEA REQUIREMENTS

Moscow ZA RUBEZHOM in Russian No 13 Signed to Press 20 Mar, 21-27 Mar 75 p 6 LD

[N. Belov article: "The World Ocean for the Good of All Mankind"]

[Text] The next, third, session of the third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea opened in Geneva on 17 March. Some 3,000 representatives from approximately 150 countries have resumed discussion of a broad complex of questions of the legal regime of the world ocean with the aim of formulating a new international convention.

The questions to be discussed at the conference--on the extent of territorial waters, freedom of passage through international straits, the regime of the open sea, fishing and economic zones, the outer limit of the continental shelf and the regime of the seabed beyond it, scientific research into the world ocean, and the struggle against pollution of the marine environment--concern the interests of all states. The positive changes in the international arena are creating favorable conditions for the formulation of norms and rules to regulate the activities of states on the seas and oceans, which would accord with the matter of strengthening peace and security, take account of the interests of all countries, both large and small, littoral and landlocked, and also contribute to international cooperation in the rational opening up and utilization of the world ocean and its resources. These norms and rules should be acceptable to all states. Only in this case can they become universally recognized norms of international law.

It is perfectly obvious that the desire of a number of countries to establish a 200-mile limit for territorial waters certainly does not contribute to the formulation of such an international-law regime on the seas and oceans. This would result in 40 percent of the surface area of the world ocean being declared territorial waters, which would not only create serious obstacles to international shipping, but also cause economic harm to all countries without exception.

The Soviet Union advocates that the new international convention consolidate the right of every state to establish the extent of its territorial waters within limits not exceeding 12 nautical miles (one nautical mile is approximately 1.8 km). This limit for territorial waters is based on a realistic regard for international practice and is sufficient to safeguard the sovereign interests of littoral states. In addition, the establishment of a 12-mile limit for territorial waters and the simultaneous creation of economic zones up to 200 miles wide would safeguard the economic interests of littoral countries outside their own territorial waters and at the same time would create no obstacle to international shipping and air communications between countries and continents.

The previous session of the Third Law of the Sea Conference, which was held in Caracas in June-August 1974, showed that approximately 100 countries advocate the establishment of precisely this limit.

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U S S R I N T E R N A T I O N A L A F F A I R S

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CSCE/MBFR

SUMMARY OF ANATOLIY KOVALEV STATEMENT ON CSCE

Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2000 GMT 26 Mar 75 LD

[Summary of statement by Anatoliy Kovalev, USSR deputy foreign minister, on Moscow television--undated]

[Text] Anatoliy Kovalev said the consensus in Geneva is that the conference will soon move to Helsinki for the third stage. He said there is every indication the third stage will be at the summit level. The conference participants have settled many of the knottier problems.

Anatoliy Kovalev noted that this is the first time the nations have agreed on such an important principle as the inviolability of frontiers. This principle is not found in the United Nations Charter or in other United Nations documents. The deputy foreign minister felt the adoption of this principle is significant especially coming just before the 30th anniversary of victory over fascism. He said the conference has done a great deal and has little left to do. Problems in the focus of attention have gradually found solution.

Anatoliy Kovalev conceded that there still may be difficulties. Attempts have been made all along to bog down the conference. There are groups both in Geneva and outside that would like to drag it out. The Geneva session has felt the obstruction of groups whose interests lie with cold war policies. Anatoliy Kovalev stressed that the second stage could have concluded much earlier if some of the imperialist nations had not made proposals that were clearly intended to allow interference in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. It took a long time, he said, before the West changed to a more realistic position and general understanding could be reached.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister noted that there have been constructive influences working on the conference. These have speeded the debates and made it easier to adjust complex problems. Now the summit will need no more than days, or even hours, to settle matters that took months at Geneva. Anatoliy Kovalev stressed the importance of General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev's meetings with the leaders of the United States, Federal Germany, France and Britain. He said these talks had stimulated the second stage of the conference, bringing it closer to consummation.

The deputy foreign minister also noted the great influence of public opinion, public groups, the media and parliamentary circles. He said the winds of the times are filling out the sails of the conference. He described these as the winds of detente, of the revolution in science and technology and of social progress. The fact that the public has exerted such influence on the conference, the speaker felt, indicates that the goals of the conference meet with public support.

Anatoliy Kovalev believes that the conference will come to occupy an important place in European history and in world history, too. He felt it has no parallel in history, though some compare it with the Vienna Congress of 1812. The deputy foreign minister saw this as a poor comparison. The Vienna Congress, he said, was the finale of the Napoleonic wars--wars that had convulsed Europe for some 15 years. The present European conference is no finale, it is an overture--the overture to a period of lasting peace and all-round cooperation in Europe.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister recalled what Leonid Brezhnev once said that Europe's gory past can never be forgotten, but everything must be done to see that it is not repeated. Anatoliy Kovalev said that this is the goal of the security conference.

The question of maintaining and consolidating the principle of freedom of passage and flight through international straits, which is now recognized and has proved its worth over a long historical period, is assuming special importance in the elaboration of the new convention.

The point is that with the new convention's consolidation of the 12-mile zone (the extent of many states' territorial waters is now less than 12 miles) a number of straits--such as the Straits of Gibraltar, Rabel Mandab, Malacca, Singapore, and others--will become the closed territorial waters of littoral states. But, as is known, they are key sectors of international seaways. Any restriction on the freedom of shipping and flight through them would signify an infringement of the interests of all other states and would contradict the interests of the development of international relations.

The Soviet Union firmly and resolutely upholds the principle of freedom of passage and flight through international straits. Jointly with the other socialist countries, the USSR submitted draft articles on this question at the Caracas session. In addition to consolidating the principle of freedom of passage and flight through international straits, they took into account the security interests of "straits states," envisaged measures against the pollution of waters or the inflicting of any other harm on "straits countries," and also included a point on compensation for damage if any is caused as the result of ships passing through these straits.

A combination of the just interests of all states also conditioned the Soviet Union's stance on the question of the establishment of economic zones--a question which gave rise to profound disagreements at the Caracas session. Taking into account the valid interests of littoral states with respect to the live resources inhabiting the sea zones adjoining their shores and also the interest of other countries in the rational use of these resources and in the increased production of foodstuffs as a result, the Soviet Union announced its consent to the establishment of economic zones up to 200 nautical miles wide by littoral countries on condition that agreement is reached on a 12-mile limit for territorial waters, freedom of passage and flight through international straits, and freedom of shipping and scientific research outside territorial waters. This conditionality is accounted for by the existence of profound intercommunication and interdependence in resolving basic questions of the law of the sea. This objective factor was recorded back in the resolution of the 28th UN General Assembly session and confirmed at the Caracas session, which decided that all basic questions of the law of the sea are interconnected and should be resolved as a "package." Jointly with the other socialist countries the Soviet Union submitted draft articles on economic zones for consideration by the conference.

The Geneva session of the Third UN Law of the Sea Conference is faced with important and undoubtedly complex tasks. The new convention which is being formulated on the law of the sea should help the world ocean, which covers 70 percent of the surface of the globe, to be placed at the service of the cause of peace, for the good of all mankind.

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
GENERAL

FOREIGN PRESS REACTION TO BREZHNEV BUDAPEST SPEECH

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 75 p 4 LD

[TASS-attributed roundup: "On A Stable Foundation"]

[Text] TASS 21 March--In describing the work of the 11th Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP] Congress the foreign press notes that the delegates' speeches expressed warm support for the goals and tasks of the party and people set out in the Central Committee report delivered by J. Kadar, first secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee. Emphasis is given to the idea expressed in the report that the most important international condition of socialist building in Hungary is the existence of the world socialist system, the socialist solidarity of the fraternal countries, their mutual aid and multi-lateral creative cooperation. In this connection, great significance is attached to the speech at the congress by L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and his high appraisal of the successes achieved by the people of Hungary.

The newspapers of many countries comment on the key problems of international relations raised in the CPSU Central Committee general secretary's speech.

L.I. Brezhnev's speech was significant, Poland's TRYBUNA LUDU notes, in the sense that it was imbued with concern for the preservation and consolidation of general peace.

The CPSU Central Committee general secretary's speech on the chief international questions was a particularly important event at the Hungarian communists' congress, where a business-like party discussion is taking place, another Polish newspaper, ZOLNIERZ WOLNOSCI, writes.

Commenting on L.I. Brezhnev's words that a great goal gives rise to great energy, the Bulgarian newspaper OTECHESTVEN FRONT writes: "This idea of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee is an accurate and topical definition of the active foreign policy activity of the socialist countries. It is also characteristic of the exceptionally important processes to be observed in international relations."

Today, there are the greatest possibilities for the relaxation of tension becoming an irreversible process. If the pressing task of holding the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe at the highest level is approaching realization and if results are emerging from the efforts being made in the sphere of disarmament and the liquidation of hotbeds of military conflagrations, the Bulgarian newspaper ZEMEDEL'SKO ZNAME stresses, then this is primarily the result of the coordination of actions by the socialist countries, and mainly the Soviet Union, and the result of the personal contribution of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev to this matter.

BERLINER ZEITUNG (GDR) stresses that the mutual relations of the socialist community countries rest on a stable foundation whose essence is the coordination of their joint actions. In this connection, the newspaper notes the complete unanimity of the fraternal parties' leaders on all questions under discussion at the friendly meeting held in Budapest.

The Soviet Union's and most other fraternal socialist countries' relations with the main powers of the capitalist world, Czechoslovakia's SVOBODNE SLOVO states, accord with the Leninist principles of peaceful coexistence and peaceful mutually advantageous cooperation.

Reflected in L.I. Brezhnev's speech, Mongolia's UNEN points out, was the indisputable fact that the peoples of the socialist community countries, motivated by the common interests of building socialism and communism and in every way expanding and deepening friendship, cooperation and mutual aid, have achieved enormous successes in strengthening their economic and defense might and in implementing a coordinated peace-loving foreign policy.